

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 06911 051338Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9245

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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TEGUCIGALPA FOR AMBASSADOR JOVA

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SOPN, US,MX

SUBJECT: MEETING IN SUPPORT OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE

REF: MEXICO 6862

1. SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF 5 MEXICAN POLITICAL PARTIES (PRI,PPS,PSTJAPCM,AND PMT) MET IN MEXICO CITY AUGUST 3 TO EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT FOR "THE POPULAR STRUGGLE IN PUERTO RICO FOR INDEPENDENCE" AND FOR THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE IN HAVANA ON THE SAME THEME (SEE REFTEL). END SUMMARY.

2. THE RULINGELHRTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO INSTITUCIONAL (PRI) WAS REPRESENTED BY FIDEL HERRERA BELTRAN, THE PARTY'S SECRETARY OF ORGANIZATION AND A FEDERAL DEPUTY FROM VERACRUZ. HERRERA, ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS AT THE AUG 3 MEETING, CHARGED THAT THE "STATE OF FREE ASSOCIATION" ESTABLISHED BETWEEN PUERTO RICO AND THE US IN 1952 WAS "SPURIOUS" AND THE PLEBISCITE HELD ON THE ISLAND IN 1967 WAS "ANOTHER CONSTITUTIONAL SHAM." PROCLAIMING THE "PRI'S SOLIDARITY WITH PUERTO RICO", HE WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT "ONLY THE

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 06911 051338Z

RADICALIZATION OF THE (PUERTO RICAN) INDEPENDENCE FORCES

IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE QUASI-MILITARISTS AND PRO-IMPERIALISTS AND THE EFFECTIVE SOLIDARITY OF THE DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS OF MEXICO, OF LATIN AMERICA, AND OF THE WORLD, CAN EXTRICATE PUERTO RICO FROM THE CLUTCHES OF COLONIALISM."

3. PEDRO BAIGES CHAPEL, WHO WAS IDENTIFIED AS SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY, ANNOUNCED THAT PRI-PRESIDENT JESUS REYES HEROLES HAD ASSURED HIM THAT THE PRI WOULD SEND SOME OF ITS LEADERS TO THE FORTHCOMING HAVANA MEETING.

4. ALEJANDRO GASCON MERCADO, WHO IS A LEADER OF THE PARTIDO POPULAR SOCIALIS (PSS), CURRENTLY THE MAYOR OF TEPIC AND CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR OF NAYARIT, HARSHLY ATTACKED THE US, ASSERTING THAT FASCISM DID NOT DISAPPEAR WITH HITLER BUT "HAS RETURNED WITH YANKEE IMPERIALISM." HE ALSO CHARGED THAT PUERTO RICO SUFFERS FROM A FASCIST INVASION" AND THAT "THERE IS NO PEOPLE IN OUR CONTINENT WHO HAVE SUFFERED AS MUCH AS THEY (THE PUERTO RICANS) HAVE."

5. OTHER PROMINENT PARTICIPANTS IN THE AUGUST 3 MEETING INCLUDE: NATILIO VAZQUEZ PALLARES, PRI; MANUEL TERRAZAS, OFFICIAL OF PARTIDO COMUNISTA MEXICANA; FRANCISCO ORTIZ MENDOZA, PPS; RAFAEL AGUILAR TALAMANTES, SEC GEN OF THE PARTIDO SOCIALISTA DE TRABAJADORES; MANUEL STEPHENS, PPS PRESS SPOKESMAN; AND HECTOR RAMIERZ CUELLAR, PPS YOUTH LEADER.

6. COMMENT: WE ARE STUDYING THIS DEVELOPMENT AND WILL SUBMIT OUR VIEWS IN SEPTTEL BUT WE BELIEVE THIS ACTION SHOULD NOT GO UNCHALLENGED.
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